



Committee of the Whole Report

For the Meeting of November 25, 2021

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** November 16, 2021
From: Philip Bellefontaine, Director of Engineering and Public Works
Subject: Authority for Broad Street and Gladstone Avenue Pedestrian Priority Treatments

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Consider first, second and third reading of the Streets & Traffic Bylaw Amendment #21-111 to broaden the Director of Engineering's authority to make Traffic Orders to regulate traffic for time of day, day of week and/or vehicle type restrictions on streets or portions of streets.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has directed staff to continue pedestrian priority treatments on the 1000 block of Broad Street and a portion of the 1300 block of Gladstone Avenue to facilitate additional public space for non-motorized travel as well as commercial patios and seating once the Business Recovery from Pandemic Bylaw is rescinded in October 2022. This direction supports objectives in Go Victoria, the City's sustainable mobility strategy, as well as policies within the Official Community Plan.

Section 9 of the Streets & Traffic Bylaw currently delegates the power to issue a broad range of Traffic Orders to the Director of Engineering. The authority to change operations from a two-way road to a single one-way block on a portion of the 1300 block of Gladstone Avenue through a Traffic Order already exists, but nothing is currently in place to allow for the restriction of classes of vehicles or time of day restrictions for the 1000 block of Broad Street.

Therefore, in order to enable the Director to implement regulations to facilitate time of day, day of the week, and/or vehicle type restrictions for Broad Street, or other future locations to support pedestrian priority measures, minor changes to the Streets and Traffic Bylaw are required. The delegation of this authority to the Director does not limit the power of Council to rescind a Traffic Order.

Once these changes are in place, Traffic Orders will be issued by the Director of Engineering for both sites for purposes of formally delivering on Council direction on Gladstone Avenue and Broad Street.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval to delegate additional powers to the Director of Engineering for the purpose of regulating the movement of traffic pursuant to Part 3 Section 124 (4) (a) and (b) of the Motor Vehicle Act.

BACKGROUND

This report is focused on bylaw changes to achieve pedestrian priority treatments through travel lane and road closure treatments on Gladstone Avenue and Broad Street as previously directed by Council in March 2021 and July 2021.

In March 2021, Council passed a motion directing staff to continue with the pedestrianization of the 1000 block of Broad Street as part of the Build Back Victoria program and to include this zone in future work plans to prioritize pedestrian activity and animation while ensuring access to loading and accessible parking adjacent to the block. The operation of Broad Street currently facilitates commercial vehicle access and loading until 10am, seven days a week. After this time, the road is used for pedestrian access and non motorized vehicle use.

In July 2021, Council directed staff to bring forward processes for facilitating closures of travel lanes and/or full roadways to facilitate increased public space and/or areas for permitted commercial use, beginning with 1300 Block on Gladstone Avenue at Fernwood Road. The operation of Gladstone Avenue currently facilitates one-way east-bound vehicle travel, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

ISSUES & ANALYSIS

The Build Back Victoria program and associated Business Recovery from Pandemic Bylaw will end on October 31, 2022. In order to continue providing expanded public plaza space and facilitate the opportunity for private patios through permit or license on the 1000 block of Broad Street and a portion of the 1300 block of Gladstone Avenue, Traffic Orders are required by the Director of Engineering.

The authority to change operations from a two-way road to a single one-way block on a portion of the 1300 block of Gladstone Avenue through a Traffic Order already exists, but nothing is currently in place to allow for the restriction of classes of vehicles or time of day restrictions for the 1000 block of Broad Street.

Staff are seeking approval to amend the Streets and Traffic Bylaw (Appendix A) to broaden the authority of the Director of Engineering to make Traffic Orders to include the restriction of vehicles from specified streets or portions of streets at various times of the day and days of the week. These Traffic Orders could also restrict classes of vehicles to enable commercial vehicle access for the purposes of making deliveries at non-peak times.

These proposed regulations are consistent with Sections 124(1) and (4) of the *Motor Vehicle Act*, and with Council's authorities under the *Community Charter*. As with all traffic orders enacted by the Director of Engineering, the delegation of this authority to the Director does not limit the power of Council to rescind a Traffic Order.

Next Steps:

The Director is currently authorized to and will issue a Traffic Order for the removal of on-street parking and convert a portion of Gladstone Avenue (between the intersection of Fernwood Road and the eastern property line of 1313 Gladstone Avenue) to one-way east bound travel effective December 31, 2021.

Should Council approve the Bylaw change proposed in this report, the second order will be issued to remove parking and restrict vehicle access, with exception of allowing time-limited commercial delivery and access for building owners, on the 1000 block of Broad Street effective December 31, 2021.

As a part of the Traffic Order process, record drawings will be developed and registered within the Transportation Division. Communications will be issued as required and on-site regulatory signage will be reviewed.

Staff will continue to work with neighbourhood associations, business and community groups to animate these spaces and prepare resource considerations for the design and construction of further pedestrian priority treatments on the 1000 Broad Street as a part of the 2023 Financial Planning Process. Staff will also continue to engage the public and stakeholders on streetscape enhancements and pedestrian priorities for Gladstone Avenue and Fernwood Square as a part of the neighbourhood planning process, currently underway.

OPTIONS & IMPACTS

Option 1: That Council consider first, second, and third reading of the Streets & Traffic Bylaw Amendment #21-111 to broaden the Director of Engineering's authority to make Traffic Orders to regulate traffic for time of day, day of week and/or vehicle type restrictions

Under this option, the Traffic Order for Broad Street would be implemented by the Director of Engineering for Broad Street. Authority for a Traffic Order on Gladstone Avenue is already in place.

Option 2: Not make any changes at this time to the Streets & Traffic Bylaw and allow the continuation of pedestrian priority measures on the 1000 block of Broad Street until the Business Recovery from Pandemic Bylaw expires on October 31, 2022.

Under this option, Broad Street would return to previous operating conditions once the Bylaw expires.

Accessibility Statement

Changes to the Streets and Traffic Bylaw and ratification of the Traffic Orders identified in this report for a portion of Gladstone Avenue and a block of Broad Street will continue to provide residents and visitors access to accessible outdoor public space. Passenger loading and accessible parking either on and/or adjacent to the corridors will be maintained.

2019-2022 Strategic Plan

These proposals are consistent with Council's 2019-2022 Strategic Plan to support the Build Back Victoria Program and previous direction to support continuation of pedestrian priority treatments in the downtown core and village centres.

Impacts to Financial Plan

There are no impacts to the 2022 Draft Financial Plan as physical changes to Broad Street and Gladstone Avenue were previously made as a part of pandemic recovery efforts. Additional placemaking treatments within these two zones can be initiated by the community and considered through existing grant programs. Staff will identify future capital works to further enhance the pedestrian priority treatments, safety and accessibility either as part of co-ordinated capital construction projects or through other programs as part of future Financial Plan submissions.

OCP Consistency Statement

This proposal further advances pedestrian mobility identified in the Official Community Plan while activating the public realm and supporting business activities.

CONCLUSIONS

Staff are seeking additional authority, as it relates to the regulation of traffic, to deliver on Council direction to support pedestrian priority treatments on the 1000 block of Broad Street. Once authority is granted, Traffic Orders for both the 1000 block of Broad Street and a portion the 1300 block of Gladstone Avenue will be issued.

Respectfully submitted,

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Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager.

List of Attachments

Appendix A: Amendment to Streets & Traffic Bylaw